



# Air and Waste Matters

DNREC Office of Environmental Protection

**SIGN UP!** This newsletter is FREE at:  
<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/DNRECLists.aspx>.

No forms to fill out—done in 3 clicks!

Volume 2, Issue 4

December 2010

## Highlights in this edition include:

**New Recycling  
Grant and Loan  
Program  
Continued...**

2

**Meeting  
Delaware's Tank  
Management  
Goals**

3

**LUST Cleanup  
in Claymont**

4

**LUST Cleanup  
in Claymont  
Continued...**

5

**Yard Waste  
Disposal Ban  
Coming to Kent  
and Sussex  
Counties**

6

**TrashStoppers –  
The Long Arm  
of the Lens**

7

**More  
Information  
on the  
Division**

8

## New Universal Recycling Grant and Loan Program

**O**ppportunity knocks for those who want to recycle. Beginning on December 14, DNREC will begin accepting applications for the new Universal Recycling Grant and Low-Interest Loan Program. Applications must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 24, 2011. Grant awards are expected to be announced in February 2011.

DNREC, with the assistance of the Recycling Public Advisory Council (RPAC), developed the grant and loan program in accordance with the

requirements of Delaware's new solid waste recycling law, known as Universal Recycling.

The Universal Recycling Grant and Low Interest Loan Program is part of the Universal Recycling bill championed by Governor Jack Markell.

Universal recycling aims to reduce the amount of municipal solid waste generated and disposed of in Delaware and contribute towards achieving the

*(Continued on page 2)*



DNREC's new universal recycling "Make a Difference" campaign logo will soon be seen in area schools, stores and agencies.

## New Recycling Grant and Loan Program *Continued...*

state's goal of recycling 75% of solid waste generated. This will help to conserve resources, save energy, extend the life of the landfills, create jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote sustainability.

Specifically, the grant and loan program is designed to assist entities engaged in the business of collecting, transporting, processing, or marketing recyclables, with the implementation of recyclables collection and processing. There will be also be an emphasis on start-up costs for residential recycling initiatives. Up to \$16 million in grant funding is available during this initial offering.

Eligible applicants are entities engaged in the business of collecting, transporting, processing, or marketing recyclables. Applicants are encouraged to establish cooperative partnerships with other parties, including private industry.

**Public information workshops will be held from 10 a.m. - noon on Monday, Dec. 13, and from 2 - 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011 at**

**DNREC's Richardson and Robbins Building Auditorium, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware.**

A detailed guidance document, as well as applications, can be downloaded from DNREC's recycling grant and loan information website at:

<http://www.awm.delaware.gov/Pages/RecyclingGrants.aspx>.

Information on the changes related to beverage containers and universal recycling is available at: [www.recycling.delaware.gov](http://www.recycling.delaware.gov).

DNREC staff are also available to provide technical and administrative assistance. For more information, please contact:

Bill Miller at: [bill.miller@state.de.us](mailto:bill.miller@state.de.us), or  
Jim Short at [james.short@state.de.us](mailto:james.short@state.de.us).

Both Bill and Jim may be reached by calling DNREC's Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch directly at 302-739-9403.

*From DNREC Press Release 12/7/10*



## New State Law

For more information: [www.recycling.delaware.gov](http://www.recycling.delaware.gov) or (302) 739-9403

- Dec. 1, 2010 — 5 cent deposit on beer and soda bottles becomes a 4 cent recycling fee (not refundable).
- Jan. 31, 2011 — last day you can get a refund for bottles on which you paid a deposit.
- Dec. 1, 2014 — recycling fee will end and there will no longer be an extra charge on any bottles.

**Key dates in the implementation of Universal Recycling in Delaware.**

## Meeting Delaware's Tank Management Goals

The US EPA has recognized DNREC's Tank Management Branch for meeting American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) spending goals associated with cleaning up releases of petroleum from leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs).

DNREC received \$1.2 million dollars in federal stimulus funding, which is being used to fund cleanup at 17 LUST sites where the responsible parties cannot be identified, are recalcitrant in performing required clean up, or do not have the ability to finance the remediation work. LUSTs continue to be a threat to Delaware's drinking water supplies, with 70% of the state's population relying on groundwater for drinking water.

DNREC's Tank Management Branch (TMB) was also involved in and received thanks for supporting EPA's enforcement case against Robert M. Duncan and Duncan Petroleum, Inc. The EPA announced a settlement last August, in which Duncan agreed to pay a \$2 million penalty for alleged violations of federal and state UST regulations at 17 gas stations in Delaware and Maryland. Four of the eight stations cited in Delaware had a long history of poor business practices and noncompliance with numerous state regulations, resulting in penalties and fines first issued by DNREC in 1997, and continuing through 2006 when the EPA's inspections took place.

To prevent leaks from USTs, the TMB now inspects Delaware's 488 federally regulated facilities at least once every three years to ensure compliance with all operation and maintenance activities required by state and federal regulations. The TMB also continues to monitor state-only regulated UST facilities and state-regulated aboveground storage tanks (AST) facilities.



DNREC provides oversight for the installation of two 30,000-gallon USTs at a new convenience store on DuPont Highway in Felton.

D. Brixen, TMB

UST inspections typically confirm that gas station owners and operators are monitoring the tank systems and carefully tracking product inventory, as well as the functioning of overfill, spill prevention and corrosion protection equipment to ensure that there are no leaks from the tank system. They must also have financial assurance to pay for cleanup if leaks occur. The Delaware UST Regulations now require owners and operator of gas stations and other types of UST facilities to conduct their own leak inspections every 30 days.

To help tank operators better understand their UST systems, Delaware UST Regulations also require that all UST facilities be operated by a certified UST operator by August 2012. To obtain certification, operators may attend a classroom training course at Delaware Technical and Community College (DTCC). Operators who are certified in other states may opt to take a reciprocity exam. For more information on certification, please contact Shelly Grabel at the DTCC Environmental Training Center, (302) 855-5900, or visit:

<http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/dnrec2000/Divisions/AWM/ust/>.

From DNREC Press Release 8/6/10



## LUST Cleanup in Claymont

**D**NREC's Tank Management Branch (TMB), with assistance from the Department of Health and Social Services—Division of Public Health, is completing a leaking underground storage tank (LUST) cleanup on Hillside Road in Claymont.

The petroleum release occurred in 1988 at the former Ron's Discount Energy Mart (a.k.a., Penny Hill Mobil, Inc.) located at 2509 Philadelphia Pike. The property is now leased by Infanzon Auto Repair. Once the problem was discovered, the tanks and contaminated soils were removed, and remedial measures were taken to control petroleum vapors that impacted several homes on Hillside Road.

However, dissolved petroleum compounds continued to be carried by groundwater from the release site towards the homes along Hillside Road.

DNREC took over the cleanup actions at the site after the responsible party, Mr. Ronald Palimere, failed to take appropriate action. Over the years, DNREC completed several remedial actions to clean up groundwater at the site and along Hillside Road. DNREC has been monitoring conditions on a quarterly basis to ensure public safety.

The release resulted in extensive cleanup costs paid from Delaware's Hazardous Substance Cleanup (HSCA) Fund. On July 31, 2009, DNREC issued a Notice of Administrative Pen-

alty Assessment and Secretary's Order to the owners, Ronald C. Palimere and Penny Hill Mobil, Inc., which included \$447,125 in penalties for failure to clean up the release and \$712,887 in cost reimbursement to the Department for cleanup expenses. According to Delaware law, the responsible parties for the release are liable for all past and any future costs associated with the Department's efforts to clean up the site.

In August and September 2009, a petroleum vapor intrusion study was initiated in the nearby neighborhood. Environmental testing was conducted on the indoor air quality in four homes and soil gas levels near the foundations of seven homes along Hillside Road to determine



The former Ron's Discount Energy Mart located near the intersection of Philadelphia Pike and Hillside Road in Claymont. The property is now leased by Infanzon Auto Repair.

whether vapors from petroleum residuals associated with the 22-year old petroleum release at the former gas station could have migrated into basements and other areas of the homes.

The results indicated that the majority of the homes have no health risk due to residual petroleum contamination. However, one resi-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Claymont Cleanup *Continued...*

dence on Hillside Road that previously had a vapor mitigation system will need additional corrective action including a new vapor mitigation system.

A second round of soil vapor monitoring and indoor air monitoring was performed in May and June 2010. Quarterly groundwater monitoring was also conducted in March and July 2010. A report detailing the results of the recent soil vapor, indoor air and groundwater monitoring is in progress.

This project is now being funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), also known as Stimulus Funding.



**A mini trackhoe-mounted Geoprobe® was used to inject an oxygen-releasing compound to remediate contaminated groundwater beneath Hillside Road.**



**A truck-mounted Geoprobe® was used for remediation injections in more accessible areas for the testing.**

DNREC continues its efforts to recover costs from the responsible parties.

For more information on the LUST cleanup in Claymont, please visit:

<http://www.awm.delaware.gov/Info/Pages/PetrolUpdate-Rons.aspx>.

**C. Brown, TMB and  
C. Wirtz, WHS**



## Yard Waste Disposal Ban Coming to Kent and Sussex Counties

**B**eginning January 1, 2011, Delaware's ban on the disposal of yard waste at two landfills – the Central and Southern Solid Waste Management Centers near Sandtown and Georgetown – goes into effect as a way to conserve valuable landfill space and encourage the recycling of a natural resource.

Operated by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority, the Kent and Sussex County landfills will continue to accept segregated yard waste after the ban goes into effect; however, yard waste may not be comingled with regular trash.

Yard waste makes up nearly one fourth of the residential waste that goes into landfills and includes all plant materials resulting from lawn maintenance and landscaping activities. These include grass clippings, leaves, prunings, brush, shrubs, garden materials, Christmas trees and tree limbs up to four inches in diameter.

The yard waste ban in Kent and Sussex Counties will divert an estimated 30,000 tons of waste from the Central and Southern landfills each year. New Castle County yard waste ban, which went into effect Jan. 24, 2008, has diverted an estimated 50,000 tons of waste from the county's Cherry Island Landfill each year.

Diverting yard waste from disposal has multiple benefits – extending the life of landfill, protecting our environment, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions that lead to climate change. Recycling yard waste into mulch and compost provides economic and



Yard waste makes up nearly one fourth of the residential waste that goes into landfills.

environmental benefits as well – by creating jobs, increasing the local production of commercial landscape products, and producing healthier soils and plants.

The available options for managing yard waste in the two counties include:

- Handling it yourself by composting or using a mulching mower, or by taking it to a local area mulching or composting location. Locations will be posted on DNREC's website listed below.
- Arranging to have someone else manage it either by hiring a landscaper, or arranging for a waste hauler to remove it.
- Developing a community-wide solution by creating a town or community yard waste site.

For more information on composting and other ways to manage residential yard waste, please visit: <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/yardwaste/Pages/Default.aspx>.

*From DNREC Press Release 10/8/10*

## TrashStoppers—The Long Arm of the Lens



The long arm of the lens caught up with another suspect in Middletown recently, after the suspect was photographed by a TrashStoppers camera illegally dumping tires on

South Market Street in Wilmington. The suspect was arrested and charged the next day with illegal dumping by Cpl. Casey Fountain, of DNREC's Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU). The suspect pleaded guilty in Justice of the Peace Court 9, where he was fined \$500, plus court costs.

Riding a wave of arrests and convictions with on-camera evidence, the TrashStoppers campaign to curtail illegal dumping in Delaware has expanded both in scope and citizens' involvement since it was launched just eight months ago.

Eleven new surveillance cameras have been deployed by DNREC's Environmental Crimes Unit since July, most of them in Wilmington, where DNREC now has 16 pending locations for camera placement at known trash dumping sites.

A dozen more locations—where TrashStopper cameras were specifically requested—already have the surveillance cameras positioned and are catching illegal dumpers in the act. Many of these locations have come from citizens' tips to the DNREC Enforcement Hotline at **1-800-662-8802**. Other TrashStoppers' camera locations throughout the state are also the direct result of citizens' involvement.

"TrashStoppers' cameras are purchased through grant

money from confiscated property in Delaware," Capt. Faedtke said. "This is about as cost-effective an anti-environmental crime campaign as taxpayers could hope for – the officers' time in deploying the cameras and making arrests is what it's costing the state."

As more cameras are deployed, the TrashStoppers' program has extended the arm of the law through police agency collaboration and the media. Violators' photos are posted on DNREC's website, where the public can help identify them, and the photos may also be distributed to law enforcement agencies through the Delaware Information Analysis Center (DIAC), a criminal information clearinghouse. After they are downloaded, TrashStopper photos can be emailed by the ECU to the DIAC, making them accessible by in-car computer to every police vehicle in the state. For more information on TrashStoppers, please visit:

<http://www.awm.delaware.gov/Enforcement/Pages/TrashStoppers.aspx>.

*From DNREC Press Release 8/20/10*



**DNREC's surveillance camera on Wilson Hill Road, west of Georgetown, captured this illegal dumper in action, leading to the arrest of the vehicle owner — charges are pending.**

**DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONTROL**

**Secretary Collin P. O'Mara**  
**Deputy Sec. David Small**

**DNREC Division of Waste  
and Hazardous Substances  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, Delaware 19901**

**Division Director  
Marjorie A. Crofts  
Phone: 302-739-9400  
Fax: 302-739-5060**

**Editor: Christina Wirtz**  
**Phone 302-395-2600**  
**christina.wirtz@state.de.us**

We're on the web!  
[www.awm.delaware.gov](http://www.awm.delaware.gov)

**Visit the Site  
Investigation and  
Restoration Branch  
Brownfields Website  
at:  
[http://  
www.awm.delaware.gov/  
v/SIRB/Pages/  
Brownfields.aspx](http://www.awm.delaware.gov/SIRB/Pages/Brownfields.aspx)  
for more Brownfields  
information.**



**The Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances includes the following sections and responsibilities:**

- **Tank Management Branch** — maintenance and installation of underground and above ground storage tanks & overseeing cleanup of tanks which may leak.
- **Emergency Prevention and Response Branch** — preventing industrial accidents, assuring emergency planning and community right-to-know, and responding to environmental emergencies.
- **Environmental Crimes Unit** — the Enforcement Officers enforce the state's air, waste and water pollution laws, and participate on DNREC's Environmental Response Team by responding to environmental emergencies.
- **Site Investigation and Restoration Branch** — remediation of sites contaminated by hazardous substances (Superfund/Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program).
- **Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch** — reuse, recycling, transport and disposal of solid and hazardous waste.

## EASY REFERENCE PHONE NUMBERS

24-Hour Report and Spill Notification Line - 1-800-662-8802  
Aboveground Storage Tanks - 302-395-2500  
Air Quality - Dover Office - 302-739-9402  
- New Castle Office - 302-323-4542  
Asbestos - New Castle - 302-323-4542  
- Kent & Sussex - 302-739-9402  
Boiler Safety - 302-744-2735  
Brownfields - 302-395-2600  
Emergency Prevention and Response - 302-739-9404  
Environmental Crimes Unit - 302-739-9401 or 1-800-662-8802  
Hazardous Waste - 302-739-9403  
Medical Waste - 302-739-9403  
Open Burning - 302-739-9402  
Outreach Ombudsman - 302-395-2515  
Recycling - 302-739-9403  
Site Investigation & Restoration Branch (Superfund/Brownfields) - 302-395-2600  
Small Business Ombudsman - 302-739-9909  
Solid Waste - 302-739-9403  
Underground Storage Tanks - 302-395-2500

## DID YOU KNOW?

This past summer, the Division of Air Quality participated in the Delaware Business, Industry, Education Alliance (BIE) Teacher Externship Program. Jennifer Hall, an environmental science teacher from Middletown High School, and Vern Higgins, a social studies teacher from Hodgson Vocational Technical High School, were introduced to several environmental programs at DNREC's New Castle offices. The information, knowledge and ideas learned from the experience are valuable tools to strengthen and update classroom curricula and communicate needs for our future workforce in Delaware.

**T. Brixen, AQ**